IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A coating composition curable by active energy rays which composition contains a siloxane compound (A) obtainable by the hydrolysis and condensation of an alkyl silicate expressed by the following general formula (1)

$$OR^{3}$$
|
 $R^{1}-O-(S_{i}-O)_{n}-R^{2}$
|
 OR^{4}
(1)

wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an acyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, respectively, and n indicates an integer from 3 to 20, and a cation polymerization initiator (B) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Claim 2 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains an epoxy compound (C).

Claim 3 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains a vinyl compound (D) having, in the molecule, a group having polymerizable double bond, and a radical polymerization initiator (E) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Claim 4 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains an epoxy compound (C), a vinyl compound (D) having, in the molecule, a group having polymerizable double bond, and a radical polymerization initiator (E) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Docket No. 295767US Preliminary Amendment

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for forming a protective film by applying a coating composition defined in any one of claims claim 1 to 4 on the surface of a substrate and then irradiating active energy rays to the composition to form the protective film.